

STEPHANIE'S STREAKER

● "Streaker," by modern definition, is indicative of one divested of raiment and striding swiftly through a public area. Such a title might be apt here since this is a bare bones little model, totally devoid of external covering, which moves rather briskly. "Stephanie's Streaker" was designed about four years before the college crowd made this fad popular. Actually, the name is in honor of my granddaughter, Stephanie, age 4-1/2, and "Big Daddy's" pet. (God knew what he was doing when he invented Grandkids.) She and I have had a ball flying this little ship.

Frank Zaic once told me that kids don't get much kicks from watching a floating glide, but really delight in seeing their little model climb like a turpentine cat going up a tree. With the rather poor glide of "Stephanie's Streaker," it can be flown in a limited area, on calm days, even after climbing quite high.

Construction is exactly like a hand-launched glider. In fact, it is a HLG with a prop hung on front. Choose light balsa for wing, stab, and sub-rudder. Use hard 1/4 inch balsa for the fuselage. Sand everything to shape and finish using L400 sandpaper. Use 2 coats sanding sealer, let dry, and sand lightly again. Decorate it with decals, dope, or colored tissue strips, to your own taste, as the small extra weight won't hurt much. Prop bearing shown works well, but you can substitute a complete front end from something like Sig's "Thermal Dart," with good results. If you use bearing as shown on plans, lightly epoxy it to nose with approximately 2 degrees down and 3 degrees right thrust. Just use enough epoxy to hold for a few test flights and then it can be firmly bonded.

Flying is the fun part, and here are a few thoughts on this. "Stephanie's Streaker" can be flown on one 14 inch long loop of 1/8, 3/16, or 1/4 inch rubber. The "excitement factor" goes up proportionally to size of rubber and number of turns wound. When using 1/4 inch rubber fully wound, it is advised to clear spectators from the area in event of a mishandled launch. At 5/8 oz., each flight is filled with all kinds of *exciting things*!! "Excitement factor" is somewhat reduced by using more moderate 1/8 or 3/16 inch rubber, but flights are more consistent. (Streaking flights with 1/4 inch are consistently filled with terror.)

Choose a fairly calm day with soft grass or weeds for first test flights. Be sure model, complete with rubber, balances as shown on plans. Try flying

Here's a well designed model, by an expert, that should bring fun . . . and performance . . . to the beginning modeler. Hand wind it and have fun. Mechanically wind it and have a run! By GEORGE PERRYMAN.



with a few hand winds. Model should climb right and glide left. After a smooth flight pattern is obtained, epoxy prop bearing firmly to nose. A bit of clay on nose or tail for fine adjustment. Cut rudder T.E. and bend for desired circle. Don't put the winder to it until it will fly OK on hand winds. I built Stephanie a little battery powered electric winder which she uses to really wind 'em in. It is a simple thing: a gearmotor mounted on a piece of wood, 2 screen door handles, with a Frisbee screwed on front to keep her from harm by a broken rubber motor. It weighs less than

one pound.

"Stephanie's Streaker" doesn't rival a Nordic A-2 in glide, but has on occasion run into a thermal, strictly by chance. On a couple of flights, it was going up in a boomer and the rubber slipped off the prop shaft with a beautiful dethermalizing effect. (Of course, I tried to con spectators that this was a planned effort.)

For lots of fun flying with little building time, try "Stephanie's Streaker." This one is designed only for young folks. (All modelers of any age are young folks.) ●